purchase of Hindi typewriter by the Department of Official Language in its Annual Hindi Programme?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) Due to the increase in use of Computers and keeping its utility in view, Ministry of Information Technology and its Subordinate Offices have not been purchasing typewriters for the past several years and only computers are being purchased. Since computers are language independent, it can be used for Hindi and other Indian languages through requisite software. Application software developed by various organisations/companies for working in Hindi and Indian languages on computer arc available in the market.

LT. Education

4180. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to levy cess on IT Firms for sponsoring IT education;

(b) if so, what are the details of the programme; and

(c) in what manner IT education would be sponsored and promoted?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Software Technology Parks

4181. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI : Will the MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set-up Software Technology Parks in 25 States during the next 18 months;

(b) if so, the name of the States where the parks are to be set-up on priority basis; and

(c) the estimated cost of each park?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER

OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) Software Technology Parks of India has set up Software technology Parks in the following States :

Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

The Government of west Bengal and Goa have also set-up STPs in their States.

It is proposed to extend Software technology Park facility to all the States in the country subject to technical, administrative and financial constraints. Meanwhile, STPs for the following States have already been approved and are being set-up:—

1. Guwahati in Assam
2. Gangtok (as a hub centre to STPI-Guwahati) in Sikkim
3. Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir

Other locations under consideration include Agartala (Tripura), Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) and Hubli (Karnataka).

The estimated cost for the setting up of STP, excluding land and building varies from Rs. 3 crore to Rs. 5 crore depending upon the technical requirements.

Proposal to Press for IT Services in the ITA

4182. SHRI YADLAPATl VENKAT RAO : Will the MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether India proposed to press for Information technology Services in the 2nd round of IT. Agreement (ITA) at the World Trade Organisation; and

(b) if so, the strategy devised to facilitate granting of trade visas to software professionals?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) No. Sir, The IT services and granting of visas do not come under the purview of IT Agreement at the World Trade Organisation.

(b) Does not arise.